

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 3, 5 and 7-16 are now pending.

Claims 10-16 have been allowed.

Prior objected-to Dependent Claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form.

Independent Claim 1 has been canceled.

Dependent Claims 2, 4 and 6 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Dependent Claims 3, 7, 8 and 9 have been amended to switch their dependency number.

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicant has, among other things, edited the Specification and Claims to help distinguish the invention over the prior art. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicant has attached a replacement drawing sheet to replace the only Drawings (FIGS. 1-3) originally submitted. Applicant has modified the reference numbers, in both the Drawings and the Specification, to eliminate duplicate reference numbers previously used. This should make the application simpler to follow.

Applicant's undersigned counsel wishes to thank Examiner Polyzos, and Primary Examiner Otilia Gabor, for the courtesies they extended in an interview at the Patent Office on April 18, 2006. The Interview Summary Record accurately summarizes that interview.

In the First Office Action, Examiner Polyzos: rejected Independent Claims 1 and 7 (as originally presented) under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,180,946 to Ebstein *et al.* ("Ebstein"); rejected Dependent Claims 2-4, 6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being an unpatentable combination of Ebstein and U.S. Patent 6,437,339 to Lee ("Lee"); rejected Dependent Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being an unpatentable combination of Ebstein and U.S. Patent 6,448,544 to Stanton *et al.* ("Stanton"); objected to Dependent Claim 5 but indicated that Claim 5 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form; and allowed Claims 10-16.

Applicant has rewritten objected-to Dependent Claim 5 in independent form to incorporate the features of original Independent Claim 1, from which Claim 5 originally depended.

As a result of the interview, Applicant has canceled Independent Claim 1; canceled Dependent Claims 2, 4 and 6; and, amended Dependent Claims 3, 7, 8 and 9 to switch their dependency numbers from "1" to "5."

Applicant has also submitted an attached Declaration by Applicant John K. Grady, to augment the Official File and bolster patentability of the invention. Note that Mr. Grady, who holds over 25 U.S. patents for x-ray equipment, has expressed his appreciation to Examiner Polyzos for a job well done and an excellent understanding of the current invention.

In his Declaration, Mr. Grady has explained some perceived differences between his current invention and the devices disclosed in Ebstein, Lee and Stanton.

Applicant submits Independent Claim 5, as amended, is now allowable over the prior art... in addition to previously allowed Claims 10-16. The remaining pending Claims 3, 5, 7, 8 and 9 are all allowable too, as they depend from allowable Independent Claim 5. Each of these Dependent Claims is short and succinct and requires no further explanation.

Applicant believes that its application, after this Amendment, is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

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